

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 10240 011838Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /075 W

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R 011623Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 371

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAACAS 10240

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR SP VE

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN REACTION TO EVENTS IN SPAIN

1. THE RECENT EVENTS IN SPAIN HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED WITH GREAT CONCERN HERE, AND MEDIA COVERAGE HAS BEEN HEAVY. THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN CARACAS WAS PICKETED OVER THE WEEKEND BY BASQUE NATIONALISTS PROTESTING THE EXECUTION OF THE FIVE TERRORISTS, AND THE EMBASSY REMAINS UNDER HEAVY GUARD.

2. FOLLOWING THE REGULAR CABINET MEETING SEP 30, FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM TOLD THE PRESS THAT "THE GOVT OF VENEZUELA IS INTERESTED IN EVERYTHING CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD." ESCOVAR SAID HE HAD ASKED FOR THE COMPLETE TEXT OF MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S LETTER TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM. HE NOTED THAT VENEZUELA'S AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN HAD ROUTINELY RETURNED TO CARACAS SOME DAYS AGO.

3. SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY EFRAIN SCHACHT STATED THAT DURING THE CABINET MEETING PRESIDENT PEREZ "HAD ANALYZED THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IN GENERAL AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE LAMENTABLE AND GRAVE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION CREATED IN SPAIN AS A RESULT OF EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE END OF LAST WEEK. THE FOREIGN MINISTER THEN MADE A COMPLEMENTARY ANALYSIS

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PAGE 02 CARACA 10240 011838Z

OF THE SITUATION FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE MINISTERS."

4. COMMENT: WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC INDICATION THAT THE GOV IS CONTEMPLATING A BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH THE GOS, COMMISSIONER TO THE PRESIDENT AND NEWLY APPOINTED VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL ALFREDO BALDO CASANOVA TOLD THE DCM OCT 1 THAT HE HAD BEEN PLANNING TO PROCEED TO POST VIA PARIS AND MADRID, BUT THAT HIS TRAVEL PLAN VVE BEEN POSTPONED BECAUSE THE GOV IS IN FACT CONSIDERING BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE MEXICANS.
SHLAUDEMAM

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